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## General Notes.

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### GEOLOGY AND PALEONTOLOGY.

**Discovery of Fish Remains in Ordovician Rocks.**—At a meeting of the Biological Society of Washington on February 7th, 1891, Mr. Charles D. Walcott, of the U. S. Geological Survey, announced the discovery of vertebrate life in the Lower Silurian (Ordovician) strata. He stated that “the remains were found in a sandstone resting on the prepaleozoic rocks of the eastern front of the Rocky Mountains, near Cañon City, Colorado. They consist of an immense number of separate plates of placoganoid fishes and many fragments of the calcified covering of the notochord, of a form provisionally referred to the Elasmobranchii. The accompanying invertebrate fauna has the facies of the Trenton fauna of New York and the Mississippi valley. It extends upward into the superjacent limestone, and at an horizon 180 feet above the fish beds. Seventeen out of thirty-three species that have been distinguished are identical with species occurring in the Trenton limestone of Wisconsin and New York.

“Great interest centers about this discovery from the fact that we now have some of the ancestors of the great group of placoderm fishes which appear so suddenly at the close of the Upper Silurian and in the lower portion of the Devonian group. It also carries the vertebrate fauna far back into the Silurian, and indicates that the differentiation between the invertebrate and vertebrate types probably occurred in Cambrian time.”

Mr. Walcott is preparing a full description of the stratigraphic section, mode of occurrence and character of the invertebrate and vertebrate faunas, for presentation at the meeting of the Geological Society of America, in August, 1891.